
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

For information, contact:

M. Michael Miller, Commodity Specialist

Telephone: (703) 648-7716, Fax: (703) 648-7722

E-mail: mmiller1@usgs.gov

Rosanna Kim (Data), (703) 648-7966

MINES-DATA: (703) 648-7799

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/>

LIME IN OCTOBER 1996

Lime producers, operating 108 plants, sold or used about 1.63 million metric tons in October, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This was 3% above the monthly average for the last 12 months. Lime sold by producers was about 1.44 million tons; this was 2% above the monthly average for the last 12 months. Captive lime used by 37 producers was about 186,000 tons, or 7% above the monthly average for the last 12 months.

Lime sold in October for construction uses, including soil stabilization, totaled about 151,000 tons. Sales of refractory dead-burned dolomite were about 11,100 tons. Sales of lime for environmental uses totaled about 438,000 tons. Sales to steel-or-iron-related markets were about 415,000 tons, and sales for other chemical and industrial uses totaled about 429,000 tons.

Principal lime-producing States in October 1996, in descending order, were Ohio, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia. These States accounted for 41% of the total output. Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri were also significant producers, but specific figures were withheld to protect company proprietary data. September exports to five countries were 5,270 tons.

There were some significant revisions made to tables 1, 4, and 5, accounting for some missing production data. More specifically, missing sales data were included in the

environmental and steel markets, in production totals for Missouri and Montana, and in the monthly consumption figures.

The 1995 Lime Annual Review has been completed and is currently available on MINES FaxBack (see telephone number above). In addition, it will soon be available at the Internet address shown above.

Industry news

Blue Circle Cement Co. has begun work on a \$40 million modernization and expansion of its existing lime production plant in Calera, AL. When completed in late 1997, annual plant capacity will be increased by 60%, from the current 227,000 metric tons per year to 363,000 tons per year. The Calera plant project includes installation of a new Kennedy Van Saun 1,000 ton-per-day pre-heater rotary kiln, modernization of the hydrator system, and improvements to the quarry, storage, and load-out facilities. Completion of the project will allow Blue Circle to expand its product line, including the production of high-calcium Type S hydrated lime.¹

¹Blue Circle Cement. News Release, Oct. 24, 1996.

After publication of the December 1996 issue of the monthly Lime Mineral Industry Surveys (MIS), the U.S. Geological Survey will discontinue collection and publication of monthly lime statistics. Staff members of the Industrial Minerals Section, Minerals Information Team, met with representatives of the National Lime Association (NLA) to discuss improving the timeliness, accuracy, and content of data collection on the monthly and annual lime surveys. The matter was then presented by the NLA to its operating committee. The committee's judgement was that an expanded annual survey and annual MIS would be very useful, and could supplant the need for the monthly survey and monthly MIS. The committee therefore recommended that the monthly survey and monthly MIS should be discontinued. With the continued cooperation of the lime industry on an expanded annual survey, the U.S. Geological Survey will be able to publish better and more useful annual data.

TABLE 1
LIME SOLD BY PRODUCERS IN THE UNITED STATES, BY USE 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise noted) 2/

Use	October 1996	September 1996	10 Months 1996 3/	10 Months 1995
Quicklime:				
Construction:				
Soil stabilization	67,700	57,700 r/	412,000	313,000
General construction	10,400	19,200 r/	127,000	77,800
Total	78,100	76,900 r/	540,000	391,000
Refractory dolomite	11,100	14,000	136,000	149,000
Environmental	365,000	353,000 r/	3,570,000	2,980,000
Steel, iron related	414,000	387,000 r/	3,930,000	3,880,000
Other chemical and industrial	376,000	418,000 r/	4,080,000	4,230,000
Total quicklime	1,240,000	1,250,000	12,300,000	11,600,000
Hydrate:				
Construction:				
Soil stabilization	26,900	23,700 r/	330,000	412,000
General construction	46,300	51,300 r/	466,000	465,000
Total	73,200	75,000	796,000	877,000
Environmental	72,700	67,500 r/	693,000	634,000
Steel, iron related	999	759 r/	9,370	30,300
Other chemical and industrial	53,100	46,400 r/	444,000	474,000
Total hydrate	200,000	190,000 r/	1,940,000	2,020,000
Total construction sales	151,000	152,000 r/	1,340,000	1,270,000
Total refractory sales	11,100	14,000	136,000	149,000
Total environmental sales	438,000	420,000 r/	4,260,000	3,620,000
Total steel, iron related sales	415,000	388,000 r/	3,940,000	3,910,000
Total chemical and industrial sales	429,000	465,000 r/	4,520,000	4,700,000
Total sales of lime	1,440,000	1,440,000	14,200,000	13,600,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ To convert metric tons to short tons, multiply metric tons by 1.10231.

3/ May include revisions to prior months' data.

TABLE 2
CAPTIVE LIME USED BY PRODUCERS IN THE UNITED STATES, BY TYPE 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise noted) 2/

Use	October 1996	September 1996	10 Months 1996 3/	10 Months 1995
Quicklime 4/	171,000	132,000	1,470,000	1,600,000
Hydrate	3,340	4,250	29,000	39,500
Refractory dolomite	12,000	10,200	108,000	123,000
Total	186,000	146,000	1,610,000	1,760,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ To convert metric tons to short tons, multiply metric tons by 1.10231.

3/ May include revisions to prior months' data.

4/ Excludes refractory dolomite.

TABLE 3
LIME IMPORTED FOR CONSUMPTION IN SEPTEMBER 1/ 2/

(Metric tons) 3/

Country of origin	Quicklime	Hydrate	Hydraulic	Total	Year to date
Canada	14,400	2,850	4,700	22,000	158,000
Mexico	5,810	370	1,750	7,930	43,600
Other	5	--	--	5	90
Total	20,200	3,220	6,450	29,900	201,000

1/ Trade statistics are reported for the month previous to that of domestic statistics because of a Department of Commerce effort to improve accuracy by providing an additional 14 days handling.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ To convert metric tons to short tons, multiply metric tons by 1.10231.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
LIME SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS IN THE UNITED STATES, BY STATE 1/

(Metric tons) 2/

State or territory	October 1996	September 1996	10 Months 1996 3/	10 Months 1995
Alabama	164,000	150,000 r/	1,480,000	1,450,000
Idaho, Oregon, and Washington	46,800	51,200	515,000	570,000
Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa	134,000	124,000	1,310,000	1,530,000
Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia	213,000	209,000 r/	2,090,000	1,990,000
Michigan	53,300	48,100	491,000	532,000
Ohio	192,000	183,000	1,720,000	1,590,000
Pennsylvania	136,000	135,000	1,280,000	1,330,000
Texas	115,000	109,000	1,160,000	1,180,000
Virginia	68,100	65,700	629,000	621,000
Wisconsin	47,400	45,900	461,000	481,000
Other 4/	460,000	465,000 r/	4,660,000	4,130,000
Total	1,630,000	1,580,000 r/	15,800,000	15,400,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ To convert metric tons to short tons, multiply metric tons by 1.10231.

3/ May include revisions to prior months' data.

4/ Includes Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

TABLE 5
LIME IN THE UNITED STATES 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons) 3/

Period	Consumption 4/	Sold or used	Imports 5/	Exports 5/
1995:				
October	1,640	1,620	29	6
November	1,640	1,620	23	4
December	1,590	1,570	18	4
1996:				
January	1,600 r/	1,580 r/	28	4 r/
February	1,520 r/	1,510 r/	21	4
March	1,570 r/	1,560 r/	18	9
April	1,590 r/	1,570 r/	15	3
May	1,600 r/	1,590 r/	17	5
June	1,620 r/	1,610 r/	19	4
July	1,620 r/	1,600 r/	24	4
August	1,600 r/	1,580 r/	28	4
September	1,610	1,580 r/	30	5
October	NA	1,630	NA	NA

r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Inventories may be estimated as 60% of monthly consumption.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

3/ To convert metric tons to short tons, multiply metric tons by 1.10231.

4/ Consumption includes sold or used plus imports minus exports, and includes Puerto Rico.

5/ Source: Bureau of the Census.